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To: Microsoft ATR, barto@visionpro.com@inetgw
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

An article posted on line at

<http://salon.com/tech/col/rose/2002/01/16/competition/index1.html>
gives a good suggestion and valid reasons to force microsoft to
open up and document the Application Programming Interface (API)
for windows. This can be summarized as: competition.

If microsoft were forced to release the API for others to study
and understand, Microsoft would lose nothing. They would still
have years of lead time in bringing products to market. However
they would have to be aware that others would now be able to
support software which was originally tied to the windows operating
system on other systems. Linux would probably be the first with
a compatible API to allow windows code to be executed in another
operating system. This would allow end users to choose between
windows and linux as the 'core' operating system while still using
the software they know and love. Office, Excel and other programs,
coded to the public and published API would execute anywhere the
API is supported.

Microsoft wins, because MORE people would write software which could
be run on windows. Further, microsoft wins because if the API was supported
in other operating systems (MacOS X, Linux, Solaris) then people would be
more likely to purchase Office, Excel, Microsoft Flight Simulator, and other
software written by microsoft, since it now runs on their OS, and the
current wide
spread use of these programs ensures that they are the 'business
standard' which
everyone would want.

The end user wins because they now have choice about which operating
system they want to use. If they want a free operating system (Linux) to
lower their cost of computing, with no support, they can do that and still
run the microsoft programs that they want or need to run. If they want a
supported operating system (windows) to ensure that they have something
which will work, then they can pay for it.

The government wins because competition is restored to the market place.

To allow microsoft off with anything less would be to repeat past mistakes
and allow microsoft to continue to monopolize the personal computing
landscape.

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